



## Open Space Committee

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2019.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: 1st floor meeting room, Town Hall Annex.

### Minutes

Attendance: John Pickle, Ann LeRoyer, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Brian Kelder, David White, Emily Sullivan, Wendy Richter.

Members Absent: Shirley Canniff, Teresa DeBenedictis,

1. Minutes
  - a. The minutes from May 23, 2019 were reviewed. Motion to accept was made by John Pickle. Second by Elisabeth Carr-Jones. Minutes were accepted.
  - b. The minutes from June 27, 2019 were reviewed. Motion to accept was made by John Pickle. Second by Elisabeth Carr-Jones. Minutes were accepted.
2. Administration and communication items
  - a. Emily Sullivan let us know that there are new standard templates for minutes and agendas that all town boards and committees must utilize from now on. She will send the templates to the committee and we will begin using them.
  - b. A number of committee members have recently been reappointed to new terms. Ann LeRoyer reminded those that have been recently reappointed that they still need to be sworn in at the Town Clerk's office.
  - c. Jane Auger and Kelsey Cowen are no longer serving on the committee. We are grateful to them for the time and energy they have given during their time on committee.
  - d. The committee is now down to 9 members. It is not necessary that we add more members, but adding a couple individuals may be wise. The committee agreed that it would be good to draft an announcement to advertise for filling vacancies. Ann will work with Kristen DeFrancisco in the Town Manager's office to put out an announcement for two additional members. Ann will send out a draft announcement for committee review before posting.
  - e. Town Day recap. Those who participated noted that there seemed to be fewer people visiting the booth than in previous years. There was considerable interest in the paper maps as

compared to the digital version based on those who stopped by the booth.

- f. Jane Auger had been maintaining the committee facebook page. She is willing to continue in this role, but would like assistance from existing members to lighten the burden. Wendy Richter is going to investigate the current reach of the OSC facebook presence so the committee can evaluate whether to continue managing a facebook page.
3. Take a Walk/Connecting Arlington's Open Spaces. Maps are done, but we do have to investigate the connection between the QR code on the maps and the website location it points to. The QR code currently directs to the old Open Space Committee web page. Emily will work on getting a new code that will take is to the new page where a list of the available walking maps will be housed.
4. Brian Kelder provided an update on the status of updates to the Experiencing Arlington's Open Spaces story map app (<https://arlingtonma.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=72a9ae0e47494ca8a38db869fc5b6d78>). He has access to the Flickr account that holds the photos and captions and can update them whenever folks have new pictures to share. In order to change any of the main text associated with each open space on the story map, he will need to gain access to the map through ArcGIS online. Adam Kurowski has indicated that he will work with Brian to enable this access, but access may be for a limited time. With that in mind the committee should review the existing information on the story map and agree on any necessary changes before beginning the process of editing the online version.
5. Picture Post. John Pickle was able to get composite material from scrap that David White had on hand. He now has enough to make approximately four picture post tops. The committee discussed possible locations for new picture posts. Possible locations include; Spy Pond, Magnolia Park, and Robbins Farm Park.
6. Fox Library is sponsoring a walking club. Ann plans to stop by and bring some Take A Walk maps to distribute there.
7. Open Space Plan. The town Open Space and Recreation Plan needs to be updated soon. Emily has been working on an effort to track the current status of the actions that were put forth in the existing plan which will help with development of the new plan. Based on lag times and funding cycles, it is now time for the committee to be solidifying a timeline and identify potential funding sources. Emily is investigating possible funding sources which may include Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Community Preservation Act (CPA) grants, or direct assistance through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)
8. Other Updates
  - a. Mystic River Watershed Association and the Town will be submitting a CPA application for the next phase of the Wellington Park restoration project.

- b. Staging work for pump upgrades at the Arlington Reservoir has begun with work to be completed by next spring. The related work on the path is under a separate contract and has a different timeline.
- c. Robbins Farm field has been re-fenced to protect the turf which did not fare as well as expected this year.
- d. The first phase of the Wellington Park project is complete. There were some seed germination issues in the wetter planted areas, but the project team is waiting until next year to see if additional planting is necessary as there is still a chance that things will sprout next spring.
- e. The potential development project adjacent to the Great Meadows is still in flux. It does appear that however the site is redeveloped, access and parking for the AGM will be retained.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.